

# **WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

## **800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE**

Keith Mullen, Chair  
Paul Wiley, Vice-chair  
Karl Holden, Secretary

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday ~ December 17, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting held via teleconference.**

### **Meeting Agenda**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL [Non-action item]**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

#### **Present:**

City of Sparks	Keith Mullen
Nevada Dept. of Transportation	Richard Burger
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District	Absent
Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority	Brent Finster
Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue	Chris Ketring
Truckee Meadows Water Authority	Chuck Atkinson
UNR	Ed Atwell
Washoe County	Karl Holden
Washoe County School District	Tracy Moore

#### **Absent:**

City of Reno	
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony	
US Dept. of Veterans Affairs	
Nevada Air National Guard	
Incline Village GID	Vacant
US DEA	Vacant

Washoe County Assistant District Attorney David Watts-Vial was also present.

#### **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item] – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the 800 MHz Users 800 MHz Users Committee agenda. The 800 MHz Users Committee will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three (3) minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the 800 MHz Users Committee as a whole.**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 MINUTES [For Possible Action]**

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A correction was noted to Mr. David Watts-Vial's title. Brent Finster, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, noted the duplicate language in Item 4 of the agenda minutes.

Brent Finster, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Ed Atwell, UNR, provided the second. There was no response to the call for Committee or public comment. Upon a call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. **LID (Logical Identification Number) STATUS UPDATE** [Non-action item] – An ongoing review and discussion on the issue of limited LID availability on the Washoe County Regional Communication System. Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator

Shawn Tayler, Washoe County Regional Communications Coordinator, shared there were 10 LIDs available to the agencies operating in the 3000-3999 range, 4 available for the 12,000 and up range, 14 held for agency use and 51 available for cross-connection of talk groups. With the Region 1 cutover, it will be necessary to do some connections to allow dispatch centers to continue to access WCRCS talk groups.

5. **SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE** [Non-action item] – An informational update on the operational status of the 800 MHz Communication System. Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator

Shawn Tayler, Washoe County Regional Communications Coordinator, shared the DC consolidation at the Spectrum NOC building had been completed. There had previously been two redundant systems with dual maintenance requirements. With the batteries of the older DC system had reached end-of-life and replacement parts increasingly difficult to come by, it was decided to consolidate it with the systems. System alignments had been completed for all sites except Red Peak; site winterizations had also all been completed.

Ed Atwell, UNR, asked if the inventory list of the bay station equipment that will need to be upgraded before the move to the P25 system had been shared with the agencies. Mr. Korbolic noted that was a item on the December 17, 2020, P25 TAC agenda.

[David Curtis, Air National Guard, joined the meeting 10:15 a.m.]

6. **WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 BUDGET** [For Possible Action] – A presentation of the FY21/22 budget with review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the 800MHz Joint Operating Committee approve, deny or otherwise modify FY21/22 WCRCS budget. Quinn Korbolic – Washoe County Technology Services

Quinn Korbolic, Washoe County Technology Services, reviewed his staff report providing an overview of the proposed FY22 budget options. The JOC had asked for additional scenarios to be presented for consideration and a recommendation to be brought back at the January 2021 meeting. Three budget scenarios were presented.

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**Table 1 - FY22 Budget Scenarios summary**

Scenario	Operations Budget	Difference compared to FY21 adopted budget	Cost per radio	Difference compared to FY21 cost per radio
0	\$1,712,177.10	(-\$56,745.65)	263.68	(-13.58)
1	\$1,676,177.10	(-\$92,745.65)	258.13	(-19.13)
2	\$1,634,677.10	(-\$134,245.65)	251.74	(-25.52)

Mr. Korbolic indicated that due to the \$910,000 currently in the infrastructure fund, it would be reasonable to either reduce or pause contributions for FY22. He reviewed the recommended budget (Scenario 0") as well as the reductions necessary to achieve the lower budgets presented in the other two scenarios. He noted a reluctance to significantly reduce the professional services budget which will carry the project management for the new system as well as legal and other specialized system support. The staff report included a budget for each scenario as well as a breakdown of the per-agency contributions.

Ed Atwell, UNR, shared that at the last JOC meeting, he had requested budget alternatives to reflect a five percent reduction, a three percent reduction and a flat budget when compared to the FY21 budget; and that the infrastructure contribution be addressed separately. He also expressed the need to have the documents at least a week in advance of the meeting to allow for discussion with and input from others at his agency. He could not recommend moving forward with this item with the scenarios presented.

Assistant District Attorney Watts-Vial recommended direction to staff should be captured in a motion. Should a motion not be made or carry, staff would be left to relay the comments made to the JOC with a recommendation.

Ed Atwell, UNR, moved to direct staff to develop three new budget scenarios to provide a five percent reduction, a three percent reduction and a flat budget as compared to the FY21 operations budget. The motion died for lack of a second.

Brent Finster, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, asked Mr. Korbolic if there would be the ability to provide the scenarios Mr. Atwell has requested without having a significant impact on the system and group mission. Mr. Korbolic shared there were likely additional reductions that could be made, such as delaying the 48-volt power upgrade in preparation for the new system. Additionally, though not recommended, the budget could be created with a structural deficit. This could create a bad precedent for managing the funds, may create an expectation of a low budget moving forward only to have a substantial increase in FY23. He expressed the need to maintain some budget flexibility to respond to emergencies quickly and minimize downtime. Mr. Finster expressed concern with reducing the budget at the risk of being able to properly maintain the essential and mission-critical program. Mr. Atwell expressed considerable concern given the furloughs and reductions his agency has already been faced with.

Chair Mullen spoke to the need and opportunity for this group to provide a recommendation to the JOC based on the needs to maintain the current system and plan

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for the new system. It would then be up to the JOC to consider whether the recommendation could be funded. There was discussion of possibly approaches to provide the JOC with enough information to decide on a budget at their next meeting, including the possibility of scheduling a special meeting of the Users. Mr. Korbolic indicated he would be able to provide the additional budget scenarios and discussed. He noted some of the planned FY22 activities, such as the DC power project for Peavine and possibly Slide Mountain, were intended to support the P25 system while minimizing the costs considering the 32% overhead cost when paying Harris.

Brent Finster, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, moved to ask staff to provide Operations scenarios for a three- and five-percent reduction, operations to operations only, and set a special meeting for January for the Committee to reconvene to review and consider the scenarios. Karl Holden, Washoe County provided the second. In response to Committee comment, the motion was amended to include a flat budget scenario as well. Mr. Holden agreed to second the amended motion. There was no further response to the call for Committee discussion and no response to the call for public comment. Upon the call for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. **800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – No discussion among 800 MHz Users Committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. March 18, 2021.

None

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item] – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the 800 MHz Users Committee agenda. The 800 MHz Users Committee will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three (3) minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the 800 MHz Users Committee as a whole.

Shawn Tayler, Washoe County Technology Services, was acknowledged for his 31 years of service to Washoe County and in support of the Washoe County Regional Communication System. Mr. Tayler spoke to the tremendous privilege and honor it had been, expressing it to be one of the best jobs in the world and how he would considerably miss the people. Committee members expressed gratitude for his service and wish him well in retirement.

There was no further response to the call for public comment.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Approved as written in session March 18, 2021.